

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 203,378 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 6,779 t, equivalent to that of the previous month but 6% below that for September 2003. Primary production for the first 9 months of 2004 was 8% lower than that for the same period in 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 83.0 cents per pound in August to 84.4 cents per pound in September, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) began the month at 59–61 cents per pound. On September 8, the price range decreased to 58–60 cents per

pound. The price range held steady at this level until September 29, when it rose to 61–63 cents per pound.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in October to 89.13 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during October. On October 5, the price increased a penny to 62–64 cents per pound. On October 13, the price range dropped briefly to 60–61 cents per pound before rebounding on October 18 to 61–63 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 ^p	2,703	1,770	1,160	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,400
2003:									
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,400
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	753	1,400
January-September	2,042	1,330	874	2,200	2,180	620	2,800	7,040	1,400
2004:									
January	216	151	94	245	211	64	274	735	1,430
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	152	100	251 ^r	297	80	377	837	1,490 ^r
August	210	158 ^r	106	264 ^r	225	87	312	786	1,480
September	203	152	105	257	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	1,887	1,380	894	2,270	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2003 ^p	1,660	1,230	859	741	897	836	131	118	6	6	3,550	2,930
2003:												
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(2)	(2)	274	226
January-September	1,250	926	643	555	669	624	99	88	5	5	2,670	2,200
2004:												
January	133	99	57	51	90	84	11	10	(2)	(2)	292	245
February	133	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	285	238
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136 ^r	100 ^r	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	251 ^r
August	146	108 ^r	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	317 ^r	264 ^r
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
January-September	1,250	926	566	502	819	765	83	74	2	2	2,730	2,270

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	119,000	143,000	87,900	105,000
Integrated aluminum companies	66,600	66,600	58,900	58,900
Independent mill fabricators	75,400	90,500	70,300	84,400
Foundries	7,240	8,690	6,420	7,700
Other consumers	363	436	363	436
Total	269,000	309,000	224,000	257,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN SEPTEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	23,800 ^r	72,400	76,600	19,600	702,000	702,000
Can stock clippings	3,590	24,000	24,900	2,700	227,000	227,000
Other clippings	3,210	7,930	7,950	3,190	69,600	70,400
Borings and turnings	5,020	17,200	17,700	4,530	154,000	154,000
Dross and skimmings	4,890	33,100	33,100	4,900	291,000	291,000
Total new scrap	40,500 ^r	155,000	160,000	34,900	1,440,000	1,450,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,700 ^r	31,700	31,500	12,000	276,000	275,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,450	1,250	1,540	1,160	15,500	15,900
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	8,900	61,700	65,800	4,750	538,000	545,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,630	8,270	8,740	1,160	76,700	77,800
Total old scrap	23,700 ^r	103,000	108,000	19,100	906,000	914,000
Sweated pig	101	736	765	72	6,630	6,630
Total all classes	64,300 ^r	258,000	269,000	54,000	2,360,000	2,370,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,050	1,660	1,370	3,340	13,500	13,600
380 and variations	6,970	22,800	22,300	7,480	206,000	206,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,730	3,940	4,020	2,660	37,100	37,100
No. 319 and variations	4,340	9,570	9,550	4,360	93,600	94,800
F-132 alloy and variations	1,290	2,510	2,540	1,250	20,900	21,200
Al-Zn alloys	228	162	150	239	1,290	1,280
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	28	28
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	3,430	3,430
Other ⁴	4,460	6,020	6,170	4,310	55,500	55,700
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200 ^r	21,700	21,700	10,200	187,000	186,000
Total all alloys	33,300 ^r	68,700	68,200	33,900	618,000	619,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,800	XX	XX	91,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,030	XX	XX	29,500	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	712	XX	XX	6,630	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	55,200	XX	XX	491,000	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August	August	January- August
Argentina	9,130	56,500	48	365	--	204	9,180	57,000
Australia	6,550	39,500	6	49	--	35	6,560	39,600
Bahrain	199	1,200	1,860	8,320	--	--	2,050	9,520
Belgium	--	688	640	7,450	--	--	640	8,140
Brazil	15,000	137,000	3,920	18,500	--	650	18,900	156,000
Canada	120,000	1,130,000	44,700	325,000	32,700	236,000	198,000	1,700,000
China	72	2,780	4,990	33,200	--	89	5,070	36,000
France	63	2,470	911	5,280	--	157	974	7,900
Germany	51	4,140	7,020	50,300	120	358	7,200	54,800
Ghana	334	334	--	--	--	--	334	334
Hungary	--	--	81	1,670	--	--	81	1,670
Italy	--	450	138	1,300	--	--	138	1,740
Japan	248	945	1,320	6,940	116	362	1,680	8,240
Korea, Republic of	--	36	327	2,040	--	29	327	2,100
Mexico	--	1,260	1,790	14,000	7,420	61,200	9,210	76,500
Netherlands	93	533	433	1,750	--	191	525	2,480
Norway	--	544	19	111	--	--	19	656
Russia	47,700	547,000	2,570	22,700	209	7,990	50,400	578,000
South Africa	5,010	26,500	2,910	23,700	--	--	7,920	50,200
Spain	7	97	73	479	--	--	79	575
Sweden	1,300	1,300	402	2,130	--	188	1,700	3,630
Switzerland	--	--	232	2,570	--	--	232	2,570
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	44	--	44
United Arab Emirates	6,040	38,400	--	1	--	167	6,040	38,500
United Kingdom	2,290	2,810	144	1,890	288	3,160	2,720	7,860
Venezuela	5,630	86,800	1,790	13,900	2,030	12,900	9,450	114,000
Other	5,400	27,200	10,600	59,500	4,910	37,800	20,900	125,000
Total	225,000	2,110,000	86,900	603,000	47,800	361,000	360,000	3,080,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August
Australia	14	61	182	1,460	3	8	199	1,530
Belgium	19	385	362	3,610	2	61	384	4,050
Brazil	--	232	1,050	8,430	--	(2)	1,050	8,660
Canada	11,700	87,300	44,000	360,000	11,300	95,800	67,000	543,000
China	123	296	2,100	20,000	28,400	187,000	30,700	207,000
Czech Republic	--	1	5	110	--	--	5	111
Dominican Republic	6	10	64	444	--	--	70	453
France	16	62	531	4,340	151	174	698	4,580
Germany	(2)	296	445	2,920	--	241	445	3,460
Hong Kong	3	64	776	4,800	328	8,240	1,110	13,100
India	16	126	11	153	537	4,430	564	4,710
Israel	56	815	116	1,420	--	19	172	2,260
Italy	5	31	146	1,300	--	42	151	1,380
Japan	447	4,090	632	4,530	2,030	15,600	3,110	24,200
Korea, Republic of	48	321	1,200	12,400	5,020	30,700	6,270	43,500
Malaysia	1	11	75	857	--	--	77	868
Mexico	10,300	89,100	12,400	98,200	2,660	24,000	25,400	211,000
Netherlands	63	231	48	448	11	172	122	851
Russia	--	5	3	26	--	--	3	31
Saudi Arabia	--	20	751	8,830	--	--	751	8,850
Singapore	6	155	143	1,080	--	362	149	1,590
Spain	15	111	114	584	616	1,480	745	2,170
Sweden	--	--	28	158	--	--	28	158
Taiwan	17	406	380	4,270	3,180	24,300	3,580	29,000
Thailand	18	93	322	2,130	653	1,720	993	3,940
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	62	619	1,270	7,820	24	139	1,350	8,580
Venezuela	2	15	75	1,260	--	3	77	1,280
Other	35	2,860	1,740	13,100	2,270	14,100	4,050	30,000
Total	23,000	188,000	69,000	564,000	57,200	408,000	149,000	1,160,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.